



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Greatness – Showing Courage (1 Samuel 17:37)

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“Courage is the greatest of all virtues, without it you may not have the opportunity to use any of the others” (Founder Samuel Johnson). “Courage is contagious; when a brave man takes a stand the spines of others are often stiffened.” (Billy Graham). Courage is a multiplier. “One man of courage is a majority” (Thomas Jefferson). Being fearless might turn out to be reckless. Bravery and heroism may be the result of a single act. We gain courage by being resolute, and tenacious. Founder Patrick Henry displayed resolve as he addressed the 1775 Virginia Convention. “I know not what course others may take; but for me, give me liberty, or give me death!”
How have you displayed one of these virtues?

INTRODUCTION

The Holy Bible reveals many examples of courage in a variety of situations. We learn about courage as we study those who were called to action. **Have you been pressed to act in a way that showed courage?**

LOST GLORY

Judges 4:8-9 Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.” “Certainly, I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.” So, Deborah went with Barak. (NIV)

Deborah was a judge and a prophetess living during the 350-year period between Joshua and Saul, Israel’s first King. She displayed wisdom and gained influence in the land. Deborah had been praying for relief from the oppression of their neighbors, the Canaanites. God apparently gave her a vision of Barak, the Israeli general, defeating Sisera, the powerful Canaanite General. **Have you lost an opportunity to gain honor?**

COMMISSIONED TO LEAD

Deuteronomy 31:23 The LORD gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: “Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you.” (NIV)

The LORD brought the Hebrew people out of bondage in Egypt, through the wilderness to the Land of Canaan. Moses sent twelve spies to explore the land. Ten reported their fears. Joshua and Caleb brought a good report, encouraging Moses and the people. God commissioned Joshua to succeed Moses and lead them into the Promised Land. **Can you share an experience of being selected as leader?**

PRACTICING COURAGE

1 Samuel 17:33-37 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.” (NIV)

Shepherd David had been practicing being courageous in progressively greater challenges. His faith in God’s provision had empowered him over the years. Slaying Goliath was a milestone, not a capstone in David’s rise to greatness. **What acts of courage are you practicing as you grow to greatness?**

A PRAYER

Almighty God: Thank You for empowering me through your word and your presence. Please quiet my fears and strengthen my resolve. Please increase my trust in your provision for each day. This I pray in the name of Jesus--- Amen!

PS: We will not have a Bible study next Wednesday, March 16. We will join others at the 60th annual Kansas Prayer Breakfast in Topeka. You can attend the event or participate in a virtual session.

www.kansasprayerbreakfast.org